

WELFARE-TO-WORK AT HUD

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) HAS A UNIQUE AND CRITICAL ROLE TO PLAY IN OUR NATION'S WELFARE-TO-WORK EFFORT. Through our public and assisted housing programs alone, we provide vital housing assistance to approximately 25 percent of America's 7.6 million welfare recipients. And our job-creating community and economic development activities focus on rural and urban areas that represent untapped labor markets, with large numbers of jobless, trainable persons, including welfare recipients, who are seeking work. In this context, we have developed a multi-faceted welfare-to-work strategy:

HUD'S HOUSING ASSISTANCE HELPS FAMILIES MOVE FROM WELFARE-TO-WORK.

- 50,000 new Section 8 Welfare-to-Work Rental Vouchers are targeted to welfare recipients for whom housing assistance is critical to obtaining or retaining employment. There are an additional 30,000 such vouchers in our FY 2001 budget request. In addition, over four million low- and very low-income families already receive HUD housing assistance—and with it the shelter and enhanced financial security needed to get and keep a job.
- Our new housing legislation, the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998, provides enhanced incentives for work through practices such as income disregards, ceiling rents and flat rents. It also allows public housing authorities to create admissions preferences for families moving from welfare-to-work.

HUD BUILDS SKILLS BY INVESTING IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

- Families gain access to employment, training, education, case management, child care and other services through programs such as Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS), HOPE VI, Neighborhood Networks, Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS), Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Supportive Housing, Step-Up, and Youthbuild.
- These and other programs work through partnerships with local public, private and nonprofit service providers. Through the landmark Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

of 1998, key HUD programs will be better integrated with the programs of other agencies, including the Department of Labor. WIA will create flexible, streamlined workforce development systems throughout our Nation—systems that meet the needs of employers as well as workers.

HUD HELPS COMMUNITIES GROW JOBS, ENSURING THE “WORK” IN “WELFARE- TO- WORK.”

- HUD has helped communities to create thousands of jobs over the years through our Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Economic Development Initiative (EDI) and Section 108 loan guarantees.
- Through Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, public housing residents and other low-income people benefit from jobs, training, and construction contracts generated by the billions of dollars of HUD funds spent in local communities each year.

HUD HELPS LOW-INCOME PEOPLE BUILD ASSETS AS WELL AS INCREASE INCOME.

- Since 1990, public housing authorities have calculated escrow credits for Family Self-Sufficiency participants for their increased rental payments due to increased earnings. These credits are deposited into interest-bearing escrow accounts which families can claim upon successful completion of the program. Our new housing legislation authorizes housing authorities to create similarly operated Individual Savings Accounts for a greater number of public housing residents.
- Expanding homeownership—we are developing regulations to help people eligible for rental assistance through Section 8 Empowerment Vouchers to purchase a home. And since 1937, HUD’s FHA mortgage insurance has helped millions of low- and moderate-income families not served by the conventional mortgage market to realize the dream of homeownership.

HUD BUILDS AND SHARES KNOWLEDGE ABOUT WELFARE-TO-WORK STRATEGIES THROUGH PATH-BREAKING RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATIONS.

- One of our most important and innovative demonstrations is Jobs Plus. It combines a place-based service saturation model with job-focused community organizing and work incentives in public housing rent policy. The aim is to help every able-bodied adult welfare recipient in seven public housing developments move-to-work. With our partners—seven local housing authorities, the Rockefeller Foundation and other funders, and the Manpower Development Research Corporation—we are analyzing, and communicating the evolution and outcomes of Jobs Plus.
- HUD's Bridges to Work (BTW) demonstration has already inspired a major Department of Transportation program called Access to Jobs. BTW is a five-site demonstration working to connect inner-city residents with suburban employment opportunities by providing transportation, job placement and support services through regional collaboratives. Partners include Public/Private Ventures, along with the Ford, Rockefeller and MacArthur Foundations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact a Community Builder in your local HUD office or see HUD's Welfare Reform web page at www.hud.gov/wlfrfrm.html. This sheet was prepared by HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research, Washington, DC, 202-708-1600.